

BOOK REVIEW

JAN VINCENTS JOHANNESSEN, with cooperation of Manuel Sobrinho-Simoes: *Diagnostic Electron Microscopy*. New York, Hemisphere Publishing Corp. and McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1982, pp. vii, 210, 834-50.

THIS much needed book is a good introduction to the ultrastructure of disease for general hospital pathologists. There has been a long-standing need to help everyday hospital pathologists not only to gain a better understanding of morphologic changes in disease, but to understand the areas of diagnostic surgical pathology wherein ultrastructure may contribute to the diagnosis.

This book presents material with a clinical orientation, including brief synopses of clinical findings. Light micrographs of the pathologic findings are well correlated with corresponding ultrastructural figures. A very helpful technique, used throughout most of the figures, is the use of clear, explanatory line drawings. Each case, therefore, has four integrated parts: clinical aspects, photomicrographs, electronmicrographs, and line drawings. For general hospital pathologists, this is a good beginning.

Because of the book's general, introductory scope, it will have only limited use for specialized pathologists, e.g., renal pathology or hematopathology. Most of contemporary specialized reference works in such areas of pathology do incorporate electronmicrographs. However, students of pathology may benefit by reading this book because of its clear presentation of many specific topics in diverse areas of disease.

A unique feature of this book is the time-honored technique of posing questions to the reader, including queries whether further laboratory tests are indicated and suggestions of possible diagnoses based on the electronmicrographs. A degree of frustration will be experienced, however, because in most instances the questions posed cannot be answered directly. The reader, out of frustration perhaps, is forced to read on and to study the higher magnification figures and explanatory line drawings. For example, an adenomatoid tumor of the epididymis is presented with a medium magnification electron micrograph that shows the propensity of this tumor to form particularly long surface villi. The general reader could not be familiar with such specialized information and is provoked to turn the page to find the answer. It is well, therefore, for the reader to be prepared for seemingly frustrating questions.

In the classical teaching mode, the author also provides several references for each case and a current general bibliography for the entire text. Specialized ultrastructural areas are also illustrated, such as parasites, bacteria, negative staining for virus particles, and scanning electron microscopy of cell surfaces. In general, the figures are of high quality and of sufficient magnification to illustrate the points raised.

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